

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/757,449

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3765

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2/9/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMMENTS**

### ***Reasons For Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the independent claim defines a sewing machine comprising a sewing head comprising a needle bar, needle, thread cutter and thread holder. The thread cutter is mounted in the head and cuts the end of an upper sewing thread, which is to be threaded by passing through the eye of the needle. The holder is provided in the head and holds the thread end after the thread has been cut by the cutter blade. Wherein the thread cutter is positioned so that a first amount of thread from the needle eye to the thread end held by the holder is equal to a second amount of thread which is drawn to an underside of a cloth in a stitch formed after starting a sewing operation. The dependent claims further limit the structure of the sewing machine of the independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Pertinent Citations***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ogawa illustrates a needle threader including a passage for threading the thread toward a holder and a cutter. The threader rotates and presents the thread to the needle eye and the cutter is positioned such that enough thread is threaded through the needle eye so that it is not unthreaded if the take-up is actuated. Niehaus et al. Illustrates a thread holder for arresting the thread during an upstroke of

thread lever assuring predetermined lengths at the needles for an ensuing stitch. Oshima et al. Illustrate a needle threader including a holder for grasping and moving the end of the thread toward a needle eye for threading. Tajima illustrates a thread take-up lever and thread guide and holder for a plurality of needles. Kamewada et al. Illustrate a head cover including a cutter mounted thereon for cutting the tails of a sewn cloth thread. Ku illustrates an upper thread hook for pulling threads from the sewing area and cutting the threads on an underside of the throat plate for allowing short threads in a stitching operation.

### ***INQUIRIES***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ismael Izaguirre', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ismael Izaguirre  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3765

II

2/21/05